

# 2021 Community Groups

## WEEKLY GUIDE

### July 11

Pastor Woody's message was on Prayer... "Simple Prayers that Change Everything." The reality is that prayer shapes and conditions the heart, the mind and soul as we enter into authentic conversation with God. We engage in speaking and listening with our Almighty Creator. Prayer can be both exciting and intimidating to us all. In recognizing what a privilege and honor it is to be called into conversation with God, we must be mindful that busyness, distractions, and lack of intentionality do not eradicate its existence or possibility in our lives. In this message Pastor Woody talked us through 3 Sets of Simple Prayers that: point us to God, ground us in Scripture, help us to navigate reality authentically and provide space for God to work in / through our Speaking and Listening.

### Community Prayer:

Lord, one of the greatest privileges you have given us as your children is prayer: the ability to communicate with you on a regular basis, to cast our cares on you, to thank you for all the blessings you have given us, to seek your counsel on the issues of life and to pray for the needs of others. To some of us this can be a daunting task, help us to see this as a unique opportunity to spend quality time with you as you transform our lives through this privilege; in Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Opening Questions

1. Is prayer something you look forward to doing, or a task you try to avoid at times? Why?
2. When are those times when you rush to prayer and those times when the need escapes you and you attempt to "go it alone"?

### EXPLORATION

Read the passages below...what can you learn about what it means to follow Jesus from these passages? (Have someone read from their bible)

### INWARD focused Prayer

#### **Psalms 139: 23-24; 51: 10**

3. Why is it important for God to search you and know your heart?
  - a. What makes you inadequate in performing this task?
4. How many anxious thoughts flow through you on a daily basis?
  - a. What have you done to try and control them?
5. Why is God's test the best way to reveal the root cause of your anxious thoughts?
6. Have you discovered any offensive ways within you? How have you dealt with them? (Just the top 10 will be fine)



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7. When you ask God to lead you in the way everlasting, what are you asking Him to do? Are you willing to follow?
8. What does a pure heart created by God mean to you?
9. How does a "steadfast spirit" differ from a "regular spirit" in your life?

**\*\*This Combats us from only looking for Self-Approval or even Like-Minded approval from others.**

### UPWARD focused Prayer

#### **Matthew 6: 10**

10. How can you be a part of sharing God's Kingdom here on the Earth?
11. What does it mean to you when you pray "Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven?"
12. What is the best way for you to not be conformed to this World System?

**\*\*This Combats the relentless Worldly Script / the Worldly Narrative that wants to shape each and every one of us.**

"This is where we long: to go where God is going and do what God is doing, in these two short prayers, we begin to think God's thoughts after Him: to desire the things He desires, to love the things He loves, to will the things He wills." (Richard Foster – Prayer)

### OUTWARD focused Prayer

#### **Philippians 4: 6-7**

13. What is the main reason you should not be anxious about anything?
14. Instead of being anxious what does God want you to do? Why is this a better antidote for your anxiety?
15. What is the promise God gives us when we do this? What is Christ's responsibility in this promise?

**\*\*This Combats Anxiety/Worry/Fear**



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### THE TAKEAWAY

"We think without ceasing...so surely, we can Pray without ceasing! It is a matter of our hearts and our minds consistently being God, Word, focused. When that happens, prayer is not reduced to a moment, but a lifestyle." – Jackie Hill Perry

- What does your prayer life look like?
- What would it look like to pray these simple prayers grounded in scripture frequently?
- What would our lives look like if after we had spoken, we spent time LISTENING to what God would guide us to focus on?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

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